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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GERMAN REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
IV PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN GOVERNOR

REF: BERLIN 1886

This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Post appreciates Embassy Berlin's REFTEL message relaying the German government's sensitivities about the nomination of the Kunduz province governor, Mohammad Omar, for participation in the autumn International Visitor program.

¶2. (SBU) Post would appreciate Embassy Berlin's conveying to the German government that the governor is not being considered for participation in an IV program this year. It may be useful to note that Governor Omar enjoys President Karzai's confidence. Whether or not he continues as Governor of Kunduz or is removed from that position during the anticipated round of governor changes, he is likely to continue to occupy Afghan leadership positions. It may also be helpful to clarify that the International Visitor program is not a reward for performance but an educational experience. It serves western interests by encouraging participating leaders' ( who in many cases are targeted due to their need for training) acceptance of modern principles of democratic governance and often has profound effects on behaviors. Post believes Omar's participation in an International Visitor program at some point would be an opportunity to shape positively his perception of his role and responsibilities as a government official. While we can inform the Germans he is not on the list for this year's IV program for governors, we do not rule out his participation in future IV programs.

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